

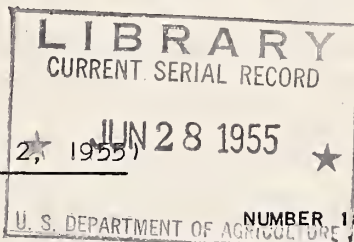
## **Historic, archived document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



9  
#2F

# Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS



(FOR RELEASE MONDAY, MAY 2, 1955)

VOLUME 70

## CONTENTS

	PAGE
<b>COTTON</b>	
Slight Increase in Peru's 1954-55 Cotton Crop.....	532
Brazil's Cotton Exports Decline From Last Year.....	533
<b>FATS, OILSEEDS, AND OILS</b>	
Japan May Increase Soybean, Tallow Imports During Fiscal Year 1955...	535
Austria Is Market for U.S. Fats and Oils.....	536
Uruguay's Flaxseed Supply Small; Sunflower Oil Available for Export.....	537
Portugal Reports Large Olive Oil Output.....	540
Mexico Anticipates Increased Production of Fats and Oils, Large Peanut Surplus.....	541
<b>FRUIT, VEGETABLES, AND NUTS</b>	
Small Almond Crop Expected in Southern Italy.....	514
North American Apples in the United Kingdom.....	531
Mexican West Coast Winter Vegetable Shipments Lowest in 15 Years....	523
<b>GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS, FEEDS AND SEEDS</b>	
Canada Reports Large March 31 Grain Stocks.....	518
U.S. Exports Grass and Legume Seeds at Record Levels.....	520
U.S. Rice Exports Decline Sharply.....	520
<b>LIVESTOCK AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS</b>	
School Children to Get Milk Tablets in Britain.....	527
Government Trading in Milk Stops in Northern Ireland.....	527
Butter Shortage in Cuba.....	527
Dairy Products; Current Wholesale Prices (table).....	528
Australian Wool Prices (table).....	529
Argentine Dairy Output Down.....	530
Cuba Extends Duty Free Entry of Hatching Eggs.....	530
Panama Milk Production Increases.....	531
Dairy and Meat Expansion Underway in Nicaragua.....	531
<b>SUGAR AND TROPICAL PRODUCTS</b>	
Britain Removes Restrictions on Coffee Imports From Latin America....	514
Brazilian Sisal and Caroa Production Increased in 1954.....	524
Brazilian Production of Jute and Other Fibers Continued High in 1954.....	525
<b>TOBACCO</b>	
Tobacco Sales Agreement With Spain Under Public Law 480.....	515
Flue-Cured Production in Tanganyika Down Slightly for 1955.....	515
Australian Tobacco Acreage up in 1954-55 Crop Year.....	515
U.S. Tobacco Exports, February 1955.....	516

## BRITAIN REMOVES RESTRICTIONS ON COFFEE IMPORTS FROM LATIN AMERICA

The British Legation at San Jose, Costa Rica, has released a statement to the Foreign Office, the Oficina del Cafe (Costa Rican Coffee Bureau), Camara de Cafetelarios (Chamber of Coffee Growers), and to the San Jose press regarding the removal of restrictions on imports of coffee into Great Britain from Latin America.

Now, for the first time in 14 years, Costa Rican coffee producers may export to Great Britain within the limitation of the established allocation, over and above the amount of coffee purchased by the United Kingdom for re-export.

The allocation of £2,500,000, or approximately US\$7,000,000, is allegedly for the calendar year 1955 and is a global allocation for the Latin American area - presumably on a "first come, first served" basis. However, the British Legation at San Jose anticipates that Costa Rica will participate in the aforementioned allocation to the extent of approximately US\$2 million.

## SMALL ALMOND CROP EXPECTED IN SOUTHERN ITALY

A below-normal almond crop is now expected in the Bari, Italy, area according to the most recent information available. The frost in mid-March, while the trees were blooming, reportedly caused serious damage to the oncoming crop. Whereas the trade was expecting an above-average crop before the frost, the 1955 crop is now variously estimated at between 13,000 and 17,000 short tons, compared with an average of 20,700 tons. The 1954 crop was estimated at 16,500 tons.

### FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

Published weekly to assist the foreign marketing of U. S. farm products by keeping the nation's agricultural interests informed of current crop and livestock developments abroad, foreign trends in production, prices, supplies and consumption of farm products, and other factors affecting world agricultural trade. Circulation is free to persons in the U. S. needing the information it contains.

Foreign Crops and Markets is distributed only upon a request basis. Should you find you have no need for this publication, please tear off the addressograph imprint with your name and address, pencil "drop" upon it, and send it to the Foreign Agricultural Service, Room 5918, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.



#### TOBACCO SALES AGREEMENT WITH SPAIN UNDER PUBLIC LAW 480

The Spanish Government has signed an agreement to purchase \$4.5 million of U.S. tobacco. The quantity involved approximates 9.0 million pounds. Purchase authorizations are anticipated to be issued within 2 weeks. Sales under this program will be made by private United States traders.

#### FLUE-CURED PRODUCTION IN TANGANYIKA DOWN SLIGHTLY FOR 1955

William B. Edmonson, American Vice Consul at Dar es Salaam, Tanganyika, reports that the 1955 crop of flue-cured tobacco is estimated at 3.1 million pounds compared to 3.2 million produced in 1954. This reduction is expected primarily because the producers' cooperative in the Southern Highlands had .25 million pounds of unsold tobacco in stock early in 1955. A delivery quota system has been introduced by which it is hoped to prevent overproduction in 1955.

#### AUSTRALIAN TOBACCO ACREAGE UP IN 1954-55 CROP YEAR

The 1954-55 Australian crop of flue-cured tobacco, now being sold, is estimated at 6.7 million pounds from 9,000 acres. About 750 more acres were planted than in the 1953-54 crop year, but production was well below the 1953-54 yield of 7.9 million pounds.

Prices for domestic leaf being sold this year reached a record high of \$2.08 U.S. per pound for a few bales sold at the Queensland auction in March. The March average for about 380 thousand pounds was \$1.65 U.S. per pound.

Two conditions have combined to boost these prices. A new cigarette company has entered the market and is providing new competition for the established manufacturers. Also, the recently announced restrictions placed on imports from non-dollar areas (dollar imports remain unchanged) are expected by the trade to lower imports of processed tobacco and products to some extent. This may increase the demand for locally produced products. Imports of cut tobacco, cigarettes, and other products totaled 3.7 million pounds last year.

The better price paid for Australian tobacco may lead to a substantial rise in leaf production. Although acreage last year was the largest since the war, production was actually lower than in the previous year because of an unfavorable growing season. Considering the good prices paid for this crop, it is doubtful if acreage will be reduced, and it may be increased with a resulting increase in production.

## U. S. TOBACCO EXPORTS, FEBRUARY 1955

United States exports of unmanufactured tobacco in February 1955 totaled 28.0 million pounds, valued at \$17.0 million about 47 percent over February 1954 exports which totaled 19.0 million pounds, valued at \$11.90 million. There were decreases in exports of Maryland, One Sucker, Cigar Binder, and Cigar Filler. Exports of most other types of tobacco increased.

Exports of flue-cured tobacco were 21.4 million pounds compared with 14.8 million pounds in February 1954, an increase of 44 percent. Exports of flue-cured tobacco to the United Kingdom in February were 3.1 million pounds compared with 3.3 million in February 1954. Exports to West Germany increased substantially from 1.8 million pounds in February 1954 to 4.3 million pounds in February 1955.

Exports of Burley tobacco totaled 2.5 million pounds in February 1955, a 57 percent increase over the 1.6 million pounds exported a year earlier. France and Portugal took 441,000 pounds and 537,000 pounds of Burley, respectively, in February 1955. Neither imported U. S. Burley in February 1954.

The largest relative increases occurred in exports of Virginia fire-cured tobacco and Green River. Norway took 356,000 pounds of Virginia fire-cured and shipments to the United Kingdom totaled 206,000 pounds in February 1955. There were no shipments of Virginia fire-cured to either country during February 1954. Shipments of Green River tobacco in February 1955 went to the United Kingdom (332,000 pounds) and to Ireland (105,000 pounds). The United Kingdom took only 47,000 pounds of Green River in February 1954 and there were no shipments to Ireland in that month.

Exports of unmanufactured tobacco for the January-February 1955 period totaled 58.9 million pounds--about a 19 percent increase over January-February 1954 exports totaling 49.4 million pounds. Exports of flue-cured tobacco increased for the first two months of 1955, totaling 46.3 million pounds compared with 41.3 million pounds for the same period in 1954. The United Kingdom took 8.6 million pounds for January-February 1955 compared with 10.8 million pounds for the corresponding period in 1954. Exports to West Germany increased about 56 percent for January-February 1955 (7.5 million pounds) compared with 4.8 million pounds for the same period in 1954.

There were increases in exports of most other types of tobacco for January-February 1955, with the exception of One Sucker, Cigar Binder, and Cigar Filler.

Exports of tobacco products, valued at \$6.0 million were about 30 percent higher in February 1955 than for the same month last year. There were increases in exports of cigarettes and smoking tobacco in packages and bulk. Exports of cigars and cheroots, and chewing tobacco and snuff decreased in February 1955 compared with February 1954.



Exports during January-February 1955 increased in cigarettes and smoking tobacco in packages and bulk. There were decreases in exports of cigars and cheroots, and chewing tobacco and snuff.

Exports of U.S. unmanufactured tobacco, February 1955 and January-February 1955 with comparisons

(Export Weight)

Type	February		Percent Change	January-February		Percent Change
	1954	1955		1954	1955	
	1,000	1,000		1,000	1,000	
	pounds	pounds		pounds	pounds	
Flue-cured	14,830	21,372	44.1	41,350	46,327	12.0
Burley	1,586	2,496	57.4	2,682	5,270	96.5
Dark-fired Ky.-Tenn.	858	1,281	49.3	1,835	2,397	30.6
Virginia Fire-cured	194	628	223.7	337	773	129.4
Maryland	435	338	-22.3	849	852	0.4
Green River	47	437	829.8	286	845	195.4
One Sucker	66	21	-68.2	107	32	-70.1
Cigar Wrapper	153	286	86.9	443	519	17.2
Cigar Binder	190	184	-3.2	339	295	-13.0
Cigar Filler	110	3	-97.3	139	3	-97.8
Other	550	986	79.3	1,041	1,645	58.0
Total	19,019	28,032	47.4	49,408	58,958	19.3
Declared value million dollars	11.9	17.0	42.8	33.6	38.1	13.4

Compiled in the Foreign Agriculture Service from records of the Bureau of the Census.

Exports of U.S. tobacco products, February 1955, with comparisons

	February		Percent Change	January-February		Percent Change
	1954	1955		1954	1955	
Cigars and Cheroots (1,000 pieces)	726	416	-42.7	1,533	801	-47.8
Cigarettes (million pieces)	1,183	1,447	22.3	2,457	2,556	4.0
Chewing Tobacco & Snuff (1,000 pounds)	132	107	-18.9	223	186	-16.6
Smoking Tobacco in Pkgs. (1,000 pounds)	48	59	22.9	88	92	4.5
Smoking tobacco in Bulk (1,000 pounds)	202	483	139.1	253	761	200.8
Declared Value (million dollars)	4.6	6.0	30.4	9.6	10.5	9.4

Compiled in the Foreign Agricultural Service from records of the Bureau of the Census.

CANADA REPORTS LARGE  
MARCH 31 GRAIN STOCKS

Total stocks of wheat, oats, barley, and rye in Canada at the end of March were considerably smaller than the near-record stocks of a year ago, according to recent estimates of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Stocks were still, however, sharply above the average of the past 10 years.

On a tonnage basis, current stocks were 27.0 million short tons, compared with 33.2 million tons a year earlier and the 10-year average of 18.5 million. The all-time record for these grains on March 31 was in 1943, when the total was 35.3 million short tons.

The largest change from the 1954 figures was in wheat, which is about 120 million bushels less than the March 31, 1954 stocks. Reductions in stocks of other grains, though less than for wheat, are also fairly substantial. Total stocks of Canadian wheat on March 31 were estimated at 621.5 million bushels, compared with 740.7 million a year earlier and the record 762.4 million in 1943. An estimated 286.0 million bushels, representing 46 percent of the total, were held on farms. Farm stocks a year earlier, at 382.7 million bushels were 52 percent of total wheat stocks on that date. Of the 335.5 million bushels in off-farms positions, 199.6 million were in country elevators. Rye stocks were 25.4 million bushels, second only to last year's record of 26.0 million.

Stocks of oats on March 31 were estimated at 200.0 million bushels. This is well below the 281.2 million bushels on hand a year earlier and is also below the 10-year average of 217.8 million. Barley stocks of 175.7 million bushels were 23 percent less than the record stocks of March 31, 1954, but were 46 percent above the average for the past 10 years. This is the first decrease in stocks of barley in 5 years. Farm stocks of all coarse grains were lower than in 1954 but were sharply above average for barley and rye. Stocks of oats on farms were not quite up to average. (See table, opposite page.)

NOTE TO EXPORTERS OF U.S. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS: Trade lists of foreign business firms, classified by commodity and country, are published by the Bureau of Foreign Commerce, U.S. Department of Commerce. They include lists of interest to foreign agricultural marketers. Copies are available to firms or individuals in the United States at \$1.00 per list for each country. Orders should be sent to the Commercial Intelligence Division, Bureau of Foreign Commerce, Washington 25, D. C. or to any Department of Commerce field office. (Please do not send orders to the Department of Agriculture).



Canada: Grain stocks in all positions, March 31, 1955, with comparisons

Position	Wheat	Oats <sup>1/</sup>	Barley	Rye
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>bushels</u>	<u>bushels</u>	<u>bushels</u>	<u>bushels</u>
In Canada				
On farms.....	286,050:	170,400:	118,980:	14,600
Country elevators.....	199,585:	14,041:	29,373:	2,748
Interior private and mill elevators.....	7,286:	704:	2,078:	20
Interior terminal elevators.....	15,252:	186:	816:	2/
Vancouver-New Westminster elevators.....	8,243:	732:	1,127:	-
Victoria elevator.....	622:	-	1:	-
Prince Rupert elevator.....	53:	-	571:	-
Churchill elevator.....	2,400:	2/	-	-
Fort William-Port Arthur elevators.....	41,582:	9,094:	18,236:	5,877
Storage afloat.....	12,796:	-	-	153
In transit, rail.....	11,569:	1,033:	1,540:	170
Eastern elevators.....	32,632:	3,453:	2,216:	658
Eastern mills (mill bins only).....	3,195:	291:	144:	5
Western mills (mill bins only).....	229:	66:	55:	16
Total in Canada <sup>3/</sup> .....	621,496:	200,000:	175,136:	24,247
Canadian grain in the United States.....	36:	911:	605:	1,122
Total Canadian grain in North America..	621,531:	200,911:	175,741:	25,369
March 31, 1954 stocks <sup>4/</sup>				
In Canada.....	740,044:	281,182:	226,842:	25,950
In the United States.....	609:	-	355:	-
Total in North America.....	740,653:	281,182:	227,197:	25,950
1945-1954 average.....	384,840:	217,842:	120,386:	11,335
<sup>1/</sup> As reported in bushels of 34 pounds. <sup>2/</sup> Less than 500 bushels.				
<sup>3/</sup> Subject to revision. <sup>4/</sup> Revised.				

From reports of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Stocks other than on farms and in mills are compiled by the Board of Grain Commissioners, as of the close of business, March 30, 1955.

# U.S. EXPORTS GRASS AND LEGUME SEEDS AT RECORD LEVELS

Exports of grass and legume seeds for the first 8 months of the crop year beginning July 1 totaled nearly 46 million pounds, an increase of about 123 percent over the same period last year and 72 percent over exports during the entire 1953-54 crop year. The level of exports this season is the highest of record.

## U.S. EXPORTS: Grass and legume seeds, February 1955, with comparisons

Kind of seed	February		July 1, 1953	July 1, 1954
	1954	1955	to Feb. 28, 1954	to Feb. 28, 1955
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds
Alfalfa.....	889	935	7,517	10,058
Alsike clover.....	279	13	2,722	532
Other clover.....	1,649	644	7,134	9,865
Fescue.....	34	161	920	1,350
Kentucky blue grass..	37	48	214	984
Orchard grass.....	0	16	125	188
Redtop.....	12	23	319	408
Timothy.....	317	337	346	664
Other grasses.....	510	1,584	1,339	21,937
Total .....	3,727	3,761	20,636	45,986

Compiled from official statistics of the Bureau of the Census.

## U.S. RICE EXPORTS DECLINE SHARPLY

Rice exports from the United States in February were the smallest for any month in several years. Total exports (in terms of milled rice) of 250,000 bags (100 pounds) were only 12 percent of shipments in February a year earlier. Relatively small exports went to Cuba, Belgium and Luxembourg, and Liberia, and minor quantities to several other countries.

(See table, opposite page.)

RICE: United States exports to specified countries,  
February 1955, with comparisons 1/

Country of destination:	August-July		August-February		February	
	1952-53	1953-54 <u>2/</u>	1953-54	1954-55 <u>2/</u>	1954	1955 <u>2/</u>
	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags
<b>Western Hemisphere:</b>						
Canada .....	601:	633:	441:	403:	71:	21
British Honduras .....	3:	17:	6:	22:	3:	3
British West Indies.....	81:	6:	4:	2: <u>3/</u>	:	1
Cuba .....	4,876:	4,755:	3,818:	2,829:	312:	172
Haiti .....	2:	2:	1:	55:	0:	1
Netherlands Antilles ..	41:	53:	29:	25:	6:	4
Venezuela .....	86:	215:	160:	59:	31:	1
Colombia..... <u>3/</u>	:	314:	34:	191:	33:	9
Other countries .....	13:	32:	18:	16:	0:	1
Total .....	5,703:	6,027:	4,511:	3,602:	456:	213
<b>Europe:</b>						
Belgium and Luxembourg :	52:	206:	159:	169:	16:	10
Greece .....	<u>3/</u>	11:	5:	5:	0: <u>3/</u>	
Ireland .....	0:	0:	0:	16:	0: <u>3/</u>	
Netherlands .....	0:	12:	12:	7: <u>3/</u>	:	0
Sweden .....	<u>3/</u>	1:	0:	70:	0:	1
Switzerland .....	38:	57:	45:	49:	3:	0
West Germany .....	<u>3/</u>	29:	16:	9: <u>3/</u>	: <u>3/</u>	
Other countries .....	10:	24:	25:	7:	1:	0
Total .....	100:	340:	262:	332:	20:	11
<b>Asia:</b>						
Saudi Arabia .....	138:	130:	77:	121:	12:	2
Ceylon .....	647:	0:	0:	0:	0:	0
Indonesia .....	1,100:	0:	0:	0:	0:	0
Korea, Republic of .... <u>4/</u>	4,631:	590:	590: <u>3/</u>	:	0: <u>3/</u>	
Hong Kong .....	179:	0:	0: <u>3/</u>	:	0: <u>3/</u>	
Japan .....	3,999:	8,538:	5,849:	393:	1,513: <u>3/</u>	
Ryukyu Islands .....	616:	0:	0:	0:	0:	0
Other countries .....	5:	25:	18:	8:	1:	2
Total .....	11,315:	9,283:	6,534:	522:	1,526:	4
Total Oceania .....	19:	17:	11:	16:	1:	3
Liberia .....	22:	67: <u>3/</u>	:	119: <u>3/</u>	:	18
Other Africa .....	<u>3/</u>	6:	5:	5:	0:	0
Other .....	-	5/	8:5/	2:5/	6:5/	2:5/
Total world .....	17,159:	15,748:	11,325:	4,602:	2,005:	250

1/ Milled rice, including brown, broken, screenings and brewers' rice and rough rice converted to terms of milled at 65 percent. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Less than 500 bags. 4/ Adjusted to include all programs of the Department of Defense and the Foreign Operations Administration. 5/ Starting with January 1954, "other" includes shipments valued at less than \$500 each when the number of such shipments to a country in a given month is few.



February exports of rough rice showed a marked reduction compared with February 1954. Largest declines were in exports to Canada and Venezuela. (See table below.)

UNITED STATES: Exports of rough rice, by country of destination, August-February 1955, with comparisons

Country of destination:	August-July		August-February 1/		February 1/	
	1952-53	1953-54	1953-54	1954-55	1954	1955
	Bags	Bags	Bags	Bags	Bags	Bags
North America:						
Canada .....	586,284:	572,918:	433,466:	350,838:	77,622:	5,817
Mexico .....	60:	5,940:	0:	0:	0:	0
Guatemala .....	0:	48:	48:	0:	0:	0
El Salvador .....	172:	523:	523:	0:	0:	0
British Honduras .....	0:	0:	0:	270:	0:	0
Honduras .....	0:	606:	0:	0:	0:	0
Nicaragua .....	70:	280:	230:	0:	0:	0
Costa Rica .....	0:	97:	0:	0:	0:	0
Panama, Republic of :	1,624:	1,410:	200:	625:	0:	625
Cuba .....	43,333:	153,639:	93,308:	89,877:	16,914:	14,600
Jamaica .....	0:	254:	60:	80:	0:	0
Haiti .....	77:	300:	0:	1,500:	0:	1,100
Dominican Republic ..	11:	0:	0:	0:	0:	0
Total .....	631,631:	736,015:	527,835:	443,190:	94,536:	22,142
South America:						
Colombia .....	97:	2,244:	2,244:	5,093:	0:	0
Venezuela .....	40,933:	106,060:	93,688:	82,422:	47,374:	1,102
Brazil .....	0:	0:	0:	58:	0:	0
Total .....	41,030:	108,304:	95,932:	87,573:	47,374:	1,102
Belgium and Luxembourg :	0:	265:	0:	0:	0:	0
Union of South Africa :	0:	600:	0:	0:	0:	0
Other .....	0:2/	1,120:2/	320:	0:2/	320:	0
Total world .....	672,661:	846,304:	624,087:	530,763:	142,230:	23,244

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Starting with January 1954, "other" includes shipments valued less than \$500 each when the number of such shipments to a country in a given month is few.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

MEXICAN WEST COAST WINTER VEGETABLE  
SHIPMENTS LOWEST IN 15 YEARS

The winter vegetable season on the West Coast of Mexico has been hampered by adverse weather throughout the season. Excessive rains during the planting season in September delayed the crops and caused some replanting. A flood washed out an important railroad bridge across the El Fuerte River in Sinaloa on January 14, which seriously inconvenienced shipments for a period of 2 weeks. There were three periods of low temperatures with the greatest damage occurring in February in the State of Sinaloa. It appears that imports from Mexico may be about 40 percent below estimates made at the opening of the marketing season.

The following table shows a summary of shipments with comparisons:

Vegetables	Shipments through			Season total	
	April 15			1953/54	Estimated
	1953	1954	1955	1953/54	Estimated 1954-55 1/
	- Number of car loads -				
Tomatoes.....	7,137	5,256	2,519	5,702	3,500
Green peppers.....	830	569	186	570	200
Green peas.....	314	236	230	233	240
Snap beans.....	0	19	21	0	-
Watermelons.....	91	190	40	259	650
Cantaloupes.....	0	62	0	942	540
Other.....	0	43	16	0	-
Mixed.....	113	100	29	119	90
Total.....	8,485	6,475	3,041	7,825	5,220

1/ Estimates are from trade sources as of the end of March. The estimates of peppers and peas were revised in view of later available data.

It appears doubtful that total shipments of Mexican watermelons and cantaloupes from the West Coast will equal the current estimates unless the shipment of United States melons is delayed enough to permit a much longer marketing season for Mexico. Watermelons began entering Nogales the second week in April. The quality was good, they were well graded and sold immediately. The variety was Peacock. Cantaloupes are not expected to reach Nogales before the latter part of April.

The quality of tomatoes has shown some improvement over those made soon after the damaging frosts in February. Prices of tomatoes have declined 50 to 75 cents a lug since Easter. On April 12 tomatoes in 35-pound lugs, grading 85 percent or better, U.S. No. 1, 6x6's, sold at \$3.50 to \$3.75, and 6x7's \$3.00 to \$3.25, mostly \$3.25.

Shipments of peas, snap beans, squash, and eggplant are practically completed. Improved demand and higher prices practically offset the smaller volume of Mexican winter vegetables.

#### BRAZILIAN SISAL AND CAROA PRODUCTION INCREASED IN 1954

Brazilian sisal production increased by nearly 25 percent in 1954, according to a report by Mr. Paul J. Ferree, Assistant Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Rio de Janeiro. Exports more than doubled in spite of a decline in world prices.

Sisal production in 1954 was announced in a preliminary estimate of the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture at 181.1 million pounds. Revised figures show 146.4 million pounds produced in 1953 and 140.6 million in 1952. The area has increased to 196,000 acres from 166,000 in 1952.

TABLE I. - Production of sisal and caroa in Brazil,  
1952-1954

Year	Sisal		Caroa 1/ Production
	Area	Production	
	1,000 acres	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
1952	166	140,580	9,800
1953	178	146,410	8,085
1954 2/	196	181,080	8,820

1/ Caroa is produced both as a cultivated and as an extractive crop, but acreage data are not reported.

2/ Preliminary.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Compiled from data of Servico de Estatistica da Producao.

Exports of Brazilian sisal increased substantially in 1954 as a result of both the liquidation of government stocks at about one-half to two-thirds the cost, and the provision of a higher exchange rate. Shipments of 111.2 million pounds were recorded during the first 10 months of 1954 in comparison with only 49.2 million in the calendar year 1953.

Germany was the largest importer of Brazilian sisal in 1954, accounting for 40.7 million pounds in the first 10 months, while the United States ranked second with 33.0 million pounds. Consumption of sisal in Brazil is estimated at about 66.1 million pounds annually.

Caroa production in Brazil was estimated at about 8.8 million pounds in 1954 compared with 8.1 million in 1953, but was considerably less in the past 3 years than the 12.9 million pounds produced in 1951. Practically all of the caroa production is consumed in Brazil.



The total supply of sisal and caroa in 1954 was nearly 234 million pounds, but carryover at the end of the year was estimated at less than 27 million pounds. This carryover is about 17 million pounds less than that of a year ago.

TABLE II. - Brazil: Sisal and caroa fiber supply and distribution in 1954

Sisal and caroa fiber	Thousand pounds
Production, 1954.....	189,816
Carryover, January 1, 1954.....	44,092
Total supply.....	233,908
Exports, 1954.....	132,276
Consumption, 1954.....	74,956
Carryover, January 1, 1955.....	26,676

Foreign Agricultural Service. Compiled from data of Serviço de Estatística da Produção, official exports for January-October, and estimates by United States Agricultural Attaches.

#### BRAZILIAN PRODUCTION OF JUTE AND OTHER FIBERS CONTINUED HIGH IN 1954

Brazilian production of bagging fibers was about 12 percent above apparent consumption. Government stocks continue to increase, making Brazil a potential, if not actual, exporter of jute.

Production of jute in Brazil in 1954 was estimated officially at 45.0 million pounds compared with 45.9 million in 1953 and 32.7 million in 1952. Acreage was estimated at 44,000 acres in 1954, 50,000 in 1953, and 32,000 in 1952.

Production of uacima was estimated at 35.3 million pounds and of malva (carrapicho fiber) at 2.9 million pounds. Piassava output increased to 19.8 million pounds from 18.6 million in 1953. Kapok production was estimated at 0.9 million pounds and tucum fiber at 0.1 million.

## Brazil: Production of specified fibers, 1952-1954

Year	Jute	Uacima	Malva (carrapicho)	Kapok	Piassava	Tucum fiber
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
1952	32,720	26,325	2,630	847	17,605	104
1953	45,900	36,740	2,665	919	18,620	95
1954 <sup>1/</sup>	45,040	35,275	2,865	882	19,840	99

<sup>1/</sup> Preliminary estimates.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Compiled from data of Servico de Estatistica da Producao for 1952 and 1953, preliminary official estimate for jute, 1954, and Embassy estimates for other figures of 1954.

The last importations of jute were in early 1952, and were reported at 36.4 million pounds from Pakistan. These imports were consumed by the end of 1954. The Brazilian government has refused to issue licenses for jute imports since about mid-1952. At present, domestic manufacturers are using 100 percent domestically produced fiber.

Total Brazilian production of bagging fibers, including jute, uacima, and the malvaceous fiber known as carrapicho, was estimated at about 83.1 million pounds in 1954, or nearly the same as in the preceding year. This production plus a carryover of about 33.1 million pounds gave a total supply of about 116.2 million pounds. Consumption was estimated at 74.3 million pounds, which left a carryover of 41.9 million pounds at the end of the year.

Although demand for bagging fibers was good and consumption increased by about 12 percent over the preceding year, the carryover increased by close to 9 million pounds. The increase in domestic jute production in recent years has changed Brazil from an importer of fiber to a potential exporter. Production has more than doubled in quantity since 1948. Export possibilities are being explored for both fiber and bags.

### SCHOOL CHILDREN TO GET MILK TABLETS IN BRITAIN

Solid milk tablets, suitably flavored, are being considered for distribution to school children in the United Kingdom. Experiments have shown that it is possible to produce these compressed dried milk tablets with flavor and sweetening added at a reasonable price; furthermore, children have passed a favorable judgement on the tablets.

The Minister of Education, according to the office of Eric Englund, Agricultural Attache, has amended the Provision of Milk and Meal regulations to permit schools to distribute tablets in lieu of recombined milk drinks where no satisfactory supply of fresh milk is available. The tablets have an advantage in that they are easy to store and distribute. No particular brand of tablet is recommended and local school authorities will be free to use any type of tablet which will provide the equivalent of one-third an Imperial pint of milk per child per day at a cost not exceeding that of fresh milk.

### GOVERNMENT TRADING IN MILK STOPS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The Government ceased its trading activity in milk in Northern Ireland, according to Orlando Worth, Agricultural Economist with the American Embassy in London; the control and marketing of milk is being transferred to the newly-formed Northern Ireland Milk Marketing Board.

### BUTTER SHORTAGE IN CUBA

Cuba will need up to 500,000 pounds of imported butter to meet its domestic requirements between now and the flush period, according to reports received from trade and other sources by Chester Davis, Economic Attache at the American Embassy in Havana. Since January, Cuba is reported to have imported 220,000 pounds and expects additional imports to exceed 400,000 pounds.

It is expected that some of the imports will be from United States stocks of CCC butter and Cuban importers indicate they now anticipate no difficulty in obtaining import permits from the Ministry of Commerce. Cuban trade sources estimate that with CCC butter currently reported going into export at 38 cents per pound, the standard cost in bulk at Cuban processing plants should be about 61 cents; this would permit a retail price of approximately 74 cents a pound in Havana.



DAIRY PRODUCTS: Current wholesale prices at specified markets, with comparisons  
(U. S. cents per pound)

Country, market and description	Butter				Cheese			
	Date	Quotations			Date	Quotations		
		Price	Month	Year		Price	Month	Year
			earlier	earlier			earlier	earlier
<u>United Kingdom (London)</u>								
New Zealand Finest Grade	Mar.31	42.6	42.6	45.5	-	-	-	-
New Zealand Finest White	-	-	-	-	Mar.31	18.9	18.9	27.3
<u>Australia (Sydney)</u>								
Choicest butter	Apr. 1	41.4	41.4	41.4	-	-	-	-
Choicest cheddar	-	-	-	-	Apr. 1	25.4	25.4	25.4
<u>Irish Republic (Dublin)</u>								
Creamery butter	Apr. 5	48.7	48.7	55.5	-	-	-	-
- - - -	-	-	-	-	Apr. 5	30.8	30.8	30.8
<u>Denmark (Copenhagen)</u>								
	Mar.24	43.7	43.7	44.7	-	-	-	-
<u>France (Paris)</u>								
Charentes Creamery butter	Mar.29	86.8	82.9	73.8	-	-	-	-
<u>Germany (Kempten)</u>								
Markenbutter	Mar.30	65.4	65.4	60.6	-	-	-	-
<u>United States</u>								
92-score creamery (N.Y.)	Apr. 1	57.9	57.9	62.0	-	-	-	-
Cheddar (Wisconsin)	-	-	-	-	Apr. 1	31.8	31.8	30.9
<u>Netherlands (Leeuwarden)</u>								
Creamery butter	Apr. 1	-	50.4	46.0	-	-	-	-
Full cream Gouda	-	-	-	-	Mar.25	23.7	25.6	22.1
Edam 40 percent	-	-	-	-	Mar.25	21.4	23.9	20.7
<u>Belgium (Hasselt)</u>								
	Mar.31	77.6	90.2	74.3	-	-	-	-
<u>Canada (Montreal)</u>								
1st grade creamery	Mar.26	63.2	63.2	63.1	-	-	-	-
Ontario white	-	-	-	-	Mar.26	30.9	30.9	32.4

Source: Intelligence Bulletin, The Commonwealth Economic Committee. U. S. Consuler Reports, and the Dairy Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U. S. D. A.

AUSTRALIAN WOOL PRICES

Wool Prices: Average raw wool costs, clean basis,  
on Australian Auction floors, by quality  
classification

	70's		64's		60's		58's	56's	50's
	Super	Average	Super	Average	Super	Average	Good	Good	Good
-----U. S. Dollars per Pound-----									
1950-51	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Sept.	2.62:	2.48:	2.43:	2.27:	2.01:	1.95:	1.83:	1.56:	1.30
Dec.	2.73:	2.63:	2.55:	2.51:	2.35:	2.29:	2.09:	1.86:	1.66
March	3.88:	3.51:	3.53:	3.46:	3.50:	3.45:	3.32:	2.97:	2.28
June	1/ 2.40:	2.17:1/	2.28:	1.99:1/	2.14:1/	1.93:1/	1.79:1/	1.63:	1.26
1951-52	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Sept.	1.33:	1.22:	1.17:	1.08:	1.06:	.98:	.91:	.78:	.60
Dec.	1.63:	1.57:	1.51:	1.44:	1.36:	1.36:	1.13:	.94:	.77
March	1.32:	1.25:	1.24:	1.18:	1.06:	1.00:	.91:	.72:	.57
June	1.59:	1.53:	1.47:	1.40:	1.24:	1.17:	1.07:	.84:	.68
1952-53	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Sept.	1/ 1.59:1/	1.52:	1.41:	1.36:	1.23:	1.18:	1.04:	.89:	.68
Dec.	1/ 1.82:	1.69:	1.57:	1.52:	1.34:	1.30:	1.15:	.96:	.78
March	1/ 1.91:	1.80:	1.67:	1.60:	1.43:	1.32:	1.22:	.98:	.82
June	1/ 1.89:	1.83:1/	1.78:1/	1.66:1/	1.52:1/	1.40:1/	1.26:1/	.97:1/	.85
1953-54	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Sept.	1.89:	1.81:	1.75:	1.60:	1.52:	1.42:	1.32:	1.07:	.89
Oct.	1.90:	1.80:	1.73:	1.60:	1.49:	1.42:	1.35:	1.19:	.97
Nov.	1.96:	1.82:	1.73:	1.61:	1.50:	1.42:	1.34:	1.18:	.97
Dec.	1.96:	1.76:	1.67:	1.58:	1.45:	1.35:	1.31:	1.14:	.93
Jan.	1.95:	1.74:	1.63:	1.54:	1.41:	1.32:	1.26:	1.08:	.92
Feb.	1.89:	1.68:	1.59:	1.49:	1.38:	1.27:	1.19:	1.13:	.89
March	1.82:	1.64:	1.55:	1.49:	1.35:	1.24:	1.19:	1.04:	.88
April	1.79:	1.66:	1.59:	1.54:	1.42:	1.31:	1.28:	1.14:	.96
May	1.82:	1.69:	1.62:	1.58:	1.48:	1.38:	1.34:	1.22:	1.02
June	1.87:	1.74:	1.67:	1.62:	1.55:	1.43:	1.35:	1.25:	1.04
1954-55	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Sept.	1.63:	1.56:	1.48:	1.40:	1.39:	1.29:	1.26:	1.18:	.98
Oct.	1/ 1.62:	1.53:	1.45:	1.36:1/	1.34:	1.23:	1.21:	1.15:	.99
Nov.	1.57:	1.44:	1.35:	1.28:	1.22:	1.16:	1.09:	1.00:	.90
Dec.	1.60:	1.47:	1.38:	1.32:	1.26:	1.21:	1.14:	1.04:	.90
Jan.	1.56:	1.43:	1.34:	1.28:	1.22:	1.17:	1.11:	1.03:	.90
Feb.	1.58:	1.47:	1.37:	1.32:	1.25:	1.19:	1.15:	1.05:	.93
March	1.47:	1.39:	1.30:	1.26:	1.20:	1.15:	1.12:	1.04:	.92
April	2/ 1.46:	1.38:	1.32:	1.29:	1.23:	1.18:	1.16:	1.08:	.95

1/ Quotations nominal. 2/ Week ending April 1.

Source: Wool Statistical Service of the Australian Wool Bureau

## ARGENTINE DAIRY OUTPUT DOWN

Production of dairy products in Argentina during 1954 is somewhat under the record levels set in 1953, according to William L. Rodman, Assistant Agricultural Attache. Mr. Rodman reports from Buenos Aires that trade estimates of butter production during 1954 amounted to 114.6 million pounds, about 10 percent under last year's record output. Cheese production is down to 198 million pounds, about 82 percent of the previous year's output. In spite of the decrease in butter manufacture, the output of casein rose about 7 percent over 1953 to just under 84 million pounds.

About 30 percent of the butter production found its way into export channels. Of the approximately 36 million pounds exported the United Kingdom took the largest amount, nearly 17 million pounds. The U.S.S.R. purchased 9.4 million pounds of butter from the Argentine during 1954.

Exports of cheese totaled 7.4 million pounds, about 20 percent under recorded exports for 1953; exports to the United States, the largest buyer, totaled about 3.3 million pounds and to Venezuela amounted to 2.5 million pounds.

Export prices of Argentine casein varied widely during 1954 as a result of European competition and local speculation. In January 1954 the f.o.b. price for lactic casein was 16 cents per pound, but dropped to 12.75 cents in March; during June and July, Argentina's winter months, the price jumped to 21.5 cents a pound and is currently being quoted at around 18.5 cents. Slightly more than 73 million pounds of casein were exported during the year; exports to the United States accounted for almost 44 million pounds.

CUBA EXTENDS DUTY FREE ENTRY  
OF HATCHING EGGS

Cuba has continued until January 31, 1956, duty-free entry of hatching eggs. The requirement that eggs be stamped in indelible ink with the name of the shipper and the notation "para incuba" (for incubation) also is continued, as is the system for assigning quotas to importers. Duty-free entry, originally granted by decree No. 141 of 1954 is now extended by decree No. 262 of February 1955.



## PANAMA MILK PRODUCTION INCREASES

The Panamanian Company of Milk Products (Nestle) has announced, according to an Embassy Report from Panama, that its receipts of fresh milk for processing totaled almost 10.9 million pounds during 1954, an increase of 681,000 pounds over 1953; this represents increased milk production in the Central Provinces.

## DAIRY AND MEAT EXPANSION UNDERWAY IN NICARAGUA

The Institute of National Development, which came into existence just over a year ago, in January 1954, has already entered actively into the expansion of the meat and dairy industries in Nicaragua, according to the American Embassy in Managua. The Institute is engaged in detailed plans for the expansion of the dairy industry with five pasteurization plants in Leon, Riva, Granda, Boaco and Chinandega areas; these are in addition to the enlargement of the large plant in Managua to which powdered milk equipment was added last year.

The Institute also has under construction a large modern slaughter house and meat chilling plant in Managua; the cost is estimated at approximately \$500,000 at current exchange rates.

## SLIGHT INCREASE IN PERU'S 1954-55 COTTON CROP

Latest estimates of the 1954-55 cotton crop in Peru indicate a production of 505,000 bales (500 pounds gross), a 7 percent increase over the 1953-54 crop of 473,000 bales, according to George H. Day, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Lima.. Most of the increase was in the Pima-Karnak varieties, resulting from increased irrigation facilities, favorable weather conditions, and adequate pest control. Production of Pima-Karnak for 1954-55 amounted to 78,000 bales as compared with 47,000 a year earlier. The Tanguis crop (picking begins in April) is estimated at 427,000 bales, practically the same as the 426,000-bale crop in 1953-54.

The forecast for the 1955-56 crop (picking of Pima begins in July) places production at about the same level as for 1954-55. Output from a moderate increase in acreage is expected to be largely offset by early season cold and some insect damage.

Peru's cotton exports for the first 7 months (August-February) of the 1954-55 marketing year amounted to 187,000 bales, or 4 percent higher than exports of 179,000 bales in the corresponding months of 1953-54. Chile is the largest export market for Peruvian cotton in the current season, taking mostly Tanguis. Nearly all of the cotton exported to the United States is extra-long-staple Pima. Other major destinations of Peruvian cotton are the United Kingdom, Belgium, Germany, France, and Switzerland.

PERU: Exports of cotton by countries of destination;  
averages 1935-39 and 1945-49; crop years 1952-53 and 1953-54;  
August-February 1953-54 and 1954-55

(Equivalent bales of 500 pounds gross)

Country of destination	Year beginning August 1				:August-February	
	Averages		1952	1953	1953-54	1954-55
	1935-39	1945-49				
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales
Belgium.....	14.2	25.4	47.5	44.2	18.1	23.6
France.....	9.0	5.9	24.6	25.4	11.5	11.8
Germany.....	78.3	2.5	30.2	43.3	29.2	20.7
Italy.....	5.2	14.9	2.6	2.4	1.2	2.5
Netherlands.....	13.7	10.3	24.8	26.8	9.7	6.1
Switzerland.....	.6	21.6	6.3	5.6	4.6	10.1
United Kingdom.....	169.4	83.7	74.2	104.4	26.5	25.2
United States.....	1.6	25.8	14.6	8.0	7.1	20.4
India.....	2.7	28.4	3.5	.3	.2	4.9
Japan.....	29.6	.2	16.6	12.7	7.9	9.9
Argentina.....	.3	6.8	6.6	14.0	8.1	2.6
Chile.....	8.5	28.3	71.9	33.3	24.5	33.6
Colombia.....	.4	29.4	39.1	20.6	17.4	5.1
Other countries.....	4.3	18.1	35.1	20.1	12.8	10.7
Total.....	337.8	301.3	397.6	361.1	178.8	187.2

Compiled from "Algodon".

A steady increase in Peru's domestic consumption of cotton has been reported during recent years, increasing from 55,000 bales in 1951-52 to 65,000 in 1953-54 and 75,000 bales in 1954-55. Further expansion, possibly to 80,000 bales, is anticipated for 1955-56 as a result of improved production methods in the textile industry and modern selling methods. Importation of improved looms and machinery as well as increasing numbers of trained textile workers has contributed to increased mill utilization. A sharp increase in import duties on textiles, effective October 1954, will further encourage domestic textile consumption.



Total cotton stocks in Peru on August 1, 1954, were estimated at 235,000 bales, with port stocks estimated at 123,000 bales. By March 24, 1955, port stocks had declined to 46,000 bales, but this level is still somewhat higher than port stocks of 29,000 bales held on March 25, 1954.

Prices to growers of Tanguis cotton held fairly steady at around 32 U.S. cents per pound for Type 3½ during most of the marketing year to February, and averaged about 30 cents for Type 5 Tanguis. Prices to producers for Pima 1-9/16 inch cotton held fairly steady at around 39 cents during this period. Prices started to decline in March, however, and on April 22, 1955, were quoted in equivalent U.S. cents per pound, as follows:

	<u>Spot quotation</u>	<u>Export tax</u>
Tanguis, Type 3½ .....	30.62	6.00
Tanguis, Type 5 .....	29.32	4.69
Pima, Type 1 .....	36.33	6.59

A recent increase by the Government in the cost-of-production allowance for Tanguis cotton from 480 to 500 soles per quintal, effective March 31, 1955, reduced the export tax on Tanguis by about one-half cent per pound, at the price levels on that date. The export tax on Pima cotton was not affected. The amount of the export tax is equal to the difference between the fixed official cost-of-production figure, and prices received by farmers. The tax therefore fluctuates according to the current price.

#### BRAZIL'S COTTON EXPORTS DECLINE FROM LAST YEAR

Cotton exports from Brazil during the August-January period of the 1954-55 marketing year amounted to 559,000 bales (500 pounds gross), a decline of 12 percent from exports of 636,000 bales in the corresponding period of 1953-54, according to Paul Ferree, Assistant Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Rio de Janeiro, and A. K. Bueno, American Consulate General, Sao Paulo. Principal destinations of Brazilian cotton during this period were Japan, Germany, and the United Kingdom, with smaller quantities going to Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, and France. (See table, next page.)

Drought conditions in South Brazil delayed planting of the 1954-55 crop which is about 3 to 4 weeks later than normal. The first official estimate of 1954-55 acreage in Sao Paulo reported the planted area at 1,914,000 acres or 2 percent under the 1,949,000 acres planted in 1953-54. Preliminary forecasts of South Brazil's cotton production for 1954-55 (harvested March-June 1955) indicate a crop of approximately 1,070,000 bales, 5 percent less than the estimated 1953-54 crop of 1,125,000 bales. To date, cotton pests and diseases are reported to have caused relatively less damage than usual, but there is still danger of heavy insect infestation.



BRAZIL: Cotton exports by countries of destination; averages 1935-39 and 1945-49; crop years 1952-53 and 1953-54; August-January 1953-54 and 1954-55

(Equivalent bales of 500 pounds gross)

Country of destination	Year beginning August 1				August-January	
	Averages		1952	1953	1953-54	1954-55
	1935-39	1945-49				
	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales
Canada.....	4.2	16.2	<u>1</u>	18.8	14.1	3.6
Belgium.....	30.0	70.7	0	53.8	21.2	20.3
Finland.....	2.3	10.2	0	0	0	0
France.....	89.5	64.1	4.3	140.7	61.1	22.1
Germany.....	285.6	.6	4.2	238.5	120.7	99.8
Italy.....	39.3	110.5	0	117.0	61.9	45.0
Netherlands.....	33.3	43.3	0	66.8	15.8	38.4
Poland.....	17.2	49.2	0	2.3	0	4.5
Portugal.....	26.4	11.2	2.1	11.9	11.9	0
Spain.....	2.8	136.3	29.9	64.6	24.8	50.1
Sweden.....	5.2	48.5	.5	25.0	18.9	7.6
United Kingdom.....	240.5	336.8	69.3	223.5	110.1	68.1
China.....	81.7	79.2	0	106.9	16.3	28.4
India.....	0	7.5	0	1.8	0	0
Japan.....	241.7	.9	24.9	246.8	107.2	119.4
Chile.....	0	11.5	8.7	9.4	4.9	1.3
Colombia.....	.7	17.8	0	1.6	.3	.4
Uruguay.....	0	7.2	.7	15.7	9.3	10.6
Australia.....	0	25.9	0	9.2	2.0	1.0
Other countries.....	11.7	68.5	0	41.9	35.5	38.5
Total.....	1,112.1	1,116.1	144.6	1,396.2	636.0	559.1

1/ Less than 50 bales.

Compiled from Comercio Exterior do Brazil; Agricultural Attaches, and other United States representatives abroad.

Estimates of the North Brazil crop for 1954-55 (harvested July-December 1954) indicate a production of 530,000 bales or about 55 percent more than the estimated crop of 340,000 bales harvested during 1953-54. The 1954-55 estimate for all Brazil is tentatively placed at 1,600,000 bales, or 9 percent above the 1953-54 estimated crop of 1,465,000 bales.

Brazil's cotton consumption amounts to approximately 900,000 bales annually. This would indicate an export surplus of approximately 700,000 bales from the 1954-55 crop, although probably no more than half this amount will be available for export before the end of the current marketing year. Stocks on August 1, 1954, were estimated at 1,200,000 bales or about 600,000 bales above normal stock requirements. This excess of stocks (600,000 bales) may also be considered as available for export.

The Government did not fix a minimum price for the 1954-55 cotton crop. No Government purchase of cotton is anticipated this year; but the minimum price law can be applied to cotton at any time if needed.

The spot price for Type 5 Brazilian cotton in Sao Paulo for January 1955, averaged Cr\$467.11 per arroba (equivalent to \*38.11 U.S. cents per pound), as compared with Cr\$462.40 (37.73 U.S. cents) for December 1954. By March the price had declined to Cr\$450 per arroba (36.72 U. S. cents per pound).

\*Converted at present export exchange rate applicable to cotton--Cr\$37.06 to the dollar.

#### JAPAN MAY INCREASE SOYBEAN, TALLOW IMPORTS DURING FISCAL YEAR 1955

Japan's imports of soybeans and tallow during the Japanese fiscal year 1955 (April 1, 1955-March 31, 1956) may be somewhat larger than in the previous 12 months, reports Joseph C. Dodson, Assistant Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Tokyo. Present indications are that imports of soybeans during the 1955 fiscal year may total about 640,000 short tons (including 66,000 tons of soybeans for processing and re-export) and tallow about 120,000 tons, as compared with 617,000 tons of soybeans and 93,000 tons of tallow in fiscal 1954.

On March 30, 1955, the Japanese Government formally approved the foreign exchange budget for imports during April-September 1955. For this 6-month period the Government has decided to increase the imports of soybeans to about 320,000 tons (including 22,000 tons of soybean meal) from around 226,000 tons in the corresponding 6 months of 1954. At the same time, tallow imports for April-September 1955 were increased by about 22,000 tons--from 44,000 to 66,000 tons.

As a basis for working out the import program for April-September 1955 the Government also tentatively set the import program for the second half of the fiscal year. The latter, however, is subject to substantial revision.

The increase in the budget for imports of most food items, including soybeans and tallow, can be attributed to the improvement of Japan's holdings of foreign exchange and, also, to the Government policy to increase the imports of necessary commodities by curtailing the imports of less essential items.



The Japanese Government, as of early April 1955, was drafting a "Bill for Temporary Measures to Stabilize the Prices of Imported Foods," which was expected to be submitted to the current session of the Diet. The bill calls for price and distribution controls on imported sugar and soybeans. By this measure the Government expects to reduce the retail prices of refined sugar and soybean oil, considered high at present.

# AUSTRIA IS MARKET FOR U. S. FATS AND OILS

Demand in 1955 for U. S. fats and oils by Austria, a traditionally deficit country, is forecast at about 11,000 short tons of lard, and 4,500 tons of animal tallow, assuming that prices are competitive, reports Einar Jensen, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Vienna. Austria may take also several thousand tons of edible oil, mainly cottonseed oil. Soybean oil in recent years has been priced too high for the Austrian market. Imports from the United States in 1954 included 10,568 tons of lard, 4,534 tons of tallow, and 3,445 tons of cottonseed oil.

Imports into Austria in 1955 probably will comprise about 22,000 tons of edible lard, 4,500-5,500 tons of inedible tallow, and approximately 55,000 tons of various other fats, oils, and fatty acids, principally of vegetable origin.

## AUSTRIA: Supply and distribution of fats and oils in 1954 1/

(Short tons)

Supply and distribution	: Vegetable : fats & oils, : fatty acids	: Rendered : hog lard	: Tallow, other : animal fats	: Marine : oils	: Total
Opening stocks.....	2/ 5,010	3/ 4,320	4/	4/	9,330
Production.....	5/ 4,140	50,710	6/ 10,470	-	65,320
Imports.....	50,620	21,350	6,350	1,450	79,770
Total supply.....	59,770	76,380	16,820	1,450	154,420
Exports.....	7/ 670	-	-	-	7/ 670
Human consumption.....	43,740	72,730	8/ 2,270	-	118,740
Industrial consumption:	12,650	-	14,550	1,450	28,650
Ending stocks.....	2/ 2,710	3/ 3,650	4/	4/	6,360
Total distribution:	59,770	76,380	16,820	1,450	154,420

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Edible fats and oils, and finished food products. Data on materials for non-food uses are not available. 3/ Commercial stocks only. Data on farm stocks not available. 4/ Not available. 5/ Includes fatty acids. 6/ Raw beef and mutton tallow. 7/ Includes 330 tons of margarine and 340 tons of fatty acids. 8/ Includes 2,204 tons of indigenous tallow, raw basis, and 66 tons of imported refined tallow.

Source: American Embassy, Vienna.



Imports of oilseeds are small and in 1954 declined to 4,408 tons from 5,628 tons in 1953. Imports of fats and oils, however, totaling 78,842 tons, were somewhat larger last year than the 67,118 tons of the year before. Principal items imported in 1954 (comparable 1953 data in parentheses) were: Pumpkin and sunflower seed--2,338 tons (1,379); poppy seed--561 (583); mustard seed--613 (418); copra--347 (2,608); lard--21,349 (14,910); fish oil--1,447 (902); tallow--5,129 (5,634); coconut oil, hardened--3,975 (7,374); palm kernel oil, crude--1,554 (254); hardened oils for industrial purposes--12,209 (11,348); fatty acids--4,523 (2,962); linseed oil--4,958 (4,584); cottonseed oil--5,982 (18); peanut oil--1,210 (1,731); soybean oil--3,218 (7,719); and sunflower oil--6,434 tons (3,847 tons).

Domestic production of oilseeds in Austria for the manufacture of oil totaled about 10,800 tons, of which about 7,100 was rapeseed and 3,700 tons pumpkin seed. Imports of oilseeds for crushing were small, totaling only 2,701 tons, the bulk of which was pumpkin seed. With stocks at the beginning and the end of 1954 reported negligible, the supply of oilseeds for the manufacture of oil was approximately 13,500 tons. This compared with 17,600 tons in 1953. The decrease in oilseed availabilities is due to a drastic decline in domestic rapeseed production as well as in imports of copra.

Austria uses a wide range of vegetable and animal fats and oils for the manufacture of food products and for industrial purposes. Lard, and perhaps tallow, are the only items of which there is a substantial home production. In 1954 total consumption of fats and oils was around 147,400 tons against 144,900 tons in 1953. Industrial consumption accounted for about one-fifth of the total quantity in both years.

#### URUGUAY'S FLAXSEED SUPPLY SMALL; SUNFLOWER OIL AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT

Uruguay's flaxseed supply for 1955 is limited but a sizable quantity of sunflower seed oil may be available for export, reports Dale E. Farringer, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Montevideo. The second official estimate of 1954-55 flaxseed production is 2,680,000 bushels from 239,000 acres compared with 2,540,000 bushels from 240,000 acres in 1953-54. The 1953-54 official estimate is considered low, however. It is based on threshers' records (collected by the Government) which were incomplete for the 1953-54 crop year. Trade estimates, on the other hand, are based mainly upon actual exports and crushings for export. As export statistics of seed and oil exceed the official production estimate, the trade estimate of production has been used in the supply and distribution table submitted by the Embassy.

With production from the 1954-55 crop at 2,680,000 bushels and no carry-over from the 1953-54 crop, it appears that a maximum of only 1,500,000 bushels of seed is available for crushing in 1955.

During January and February 1955 flaxseed prices to growers were relatively stable, averaging 21.00 pesos per 100 kilograms, Montevideo delivery. Sales volume was small as both buyers and sellers awaited (and as of mid-April still were awaiting) announcement of government policy for marketing the 1954-55 crop. On limited volume trading in March, prices dropped to 20.00 pesos.

Table 1 - URUGUAY: Flaxseed supply and distribution, 1954 and forecast 1955

	1954	1955 (forecast)
	<u>1,000 bushels</u>	
<u>Supply</u>		
Stocks, January 1.....	1,968	0
Production 1953-54.....	<u>1/</u> 3,347	<u>2/</u> 2,680
Imports.....	0	0
Total.....	5,315	2,680
<u>Distribution</u>		
Exports.....	<u>3/</u> 725	<u>4/</u> 590
Industrial consumption.....	195	195
Crushings.....	4,000	1,500
Seed and waste.....	395	395
Stocks, December 31.....	0	0
Total.....	5,315	2,680

1/ Trade estimate. 2/ Official estimate (probable second) based upon threshers' records not yet released by the Ministry. 3/ La Exportacion del Uruguay, a trade publication based on ships' manifests. 4/ Probable flaxseed export (trade source) subject to change upon announcement of government's export policy for the 1954-55 flaxseed crop.

Compiled from official and trade sources by the Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Montevideo.

Exports of flaxseed and linseed oil totaled 725,235 bushels and 21,002 short tons, respectively, during 1954. Brazil was the principal destination for flaxseed and the United Kingdom for linseed oil.

Table 2 - URUGUAY: Linseed oil supply and distribution, 1954 and forecast 1955

	1954	1955 (forecast)
	<u>Short tons</u>	
<u>Supply</u>		
Stocks, January 1.....	1,860	3,860
Production.....	34,710	14,440
Imports.....	0	0
Total.....	36,570	18,300
<u>Distribution</u>		
Exports.....	<u>1/</u> 31,000	16,590
Industrial consumption.....	1,710	1,710
Stocks, December 31.....	<u>2/</u> 3,860	0
Total.....	36,570	18,300

1/ La Exportacion del Uruguay, a trade publication based on ships' manifests. 2/ Sold but pending export delivery.

Compiled from official and trade sources by the Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Montevideo.



The price of linseed oil, loaded in February and March for export, was quoted at \$204 per metric ton (9.3 cents per pound) f.o.b., or approximately \$25 a ton higher than a few months ago. Flaxseed export prices on shipments toward the end of 1954 (nothing shipped from then to mid-April) were quoted at \$142 a ton (\$3.61 per bushel). The exchange rate of 2.35 pesos to the dollar was applied to recent linseed oil sales and 1.519 to flaxseed. Certain crushers recently have been asking for the continuation of the 2.35 rate on linseed oil although some trade sources believe the government is likely to fix the rate for linseed oil from the 1954-55 flaxseed crop at 2.125 pesos per dollar.

Uruguayan sunflower seed production in 1954-55 is forecast at 110,200 short tons compared with 92,700 tons a year ago. Exports of seed are not permitted. A small quantity (2,438 tons) of sunflower oil, carry-over from the 1952-53 crop, was exported early in 1954. The f.o.b. price on this shipment was reported to be \$208 per metric ton (9.4 cents per pound). The applicable rate was 2.35 pesos to U. S. \$1.00. There were no exports from the 1953-54 crop, that oil having been retained for local consumption requirements of table and cooking oils. From the current crop, approximately 10,700 tons of oil should be available for export. Trade sources are of the opinion that the present cost/price relationship does not permit shipments at the 2.35 export exchange rate. They claim that a rate (or the equivalent in export subsidy) approaching 3.00 pesos to the dollar is necessary.

Peanut production may approximate 5,500 tons of nuts in the shell compared with 4,790 tons last year. Peanuts and peanut oil were not exported from Uruguay in 1954, where the small local output of oil is used "to cut" sunflower oil. A small quantity of peanut meal, 568 tons, was shipped to the United Kingdom and Germany.

Olive oil is the only other vegetable oil produced in Uruguay. Although 1954 data are not available, production reportedly is increasing. It was announced recently that the local firm Olivares y Naranjales del Litoral S.A. in the Department of Paysandu plans to plant 500,000 olive trees by 1958. In calendar year 1953 olive production amounted to 840 tons of which 565 tons were crushed yielding 110 tons of oil.

Exports of expellers during 1954 were reported as follows: sunflower--38,824 short tons; flaxseed--58,039; and peanut--1,227 tons. Meal exports were: sunflower--5,603 tons; flaxseed--5,769; and peanut--568 tons. The exchange rate for all oilseed expellers and meal is 1.78 pesos to the dollar.

The sharp decline in production of edible (beef and sheep) tallow in 1954 compared with 1953 (26,460 tons against 40,400 tons) was due to the decline in packing house slaughter. The three foreign-owned frigorificos have been nearly shut down since July 1954. On the other hand, the increase in black market slaughter offset the decline, from 9,610 to 9,000 tons, in inedible tallow output. As a result, production in 1954 was maintained at approximately the 1953 level. Lard production, placed at 1,540 tons on the basis of estimated hog slaughter, was little changed in 1954 from 1953.



Reported exports of animal fats were negligible in 1954. However, non-reported "crossings" of inedible beef tallow into Brazil, where higher prices were paid, probably totaled 2,200 tons. Tallow worth \$180 to \$200 per metric ton (8.2 to 9.1 cents per pound) f.o.b. was sold for around \$475 (21.5 cents), according to a trade source. The exchange rate on legal, authorized shipments was 1.519 pesos to the dollar.

#### PORTUGAL REPORTS LARGE OLIVE OIL OUTPUT

Olive oil production from Portugal's 1954 crop of olives is now expected to reach 50,000 short tons although the latest official estimate is 47,000 tons, according to the American Embassy, Lisbon. This volume of oil would represent the second highest output for a year of alternate low production, exceeded only by the 57,700 tons of oil from the 1952 crop. Oil production from the 1953 crop reached an all-time high of 134,400 tons. Inedible oil from the 1954 crop extracted chiefly by chemical processes from the residue after the edible olive oil was pressed, amounted to 8,700 tons against 7,200 tons from the 1953 crop.

Stocks of edible olive oil on March 1, including those in the hands of farmers for their own use, were estimated at 46,850 tons compared with 95,690 tons on March 1, 1954. This stock is considered sufficient for local requirements until the new crop becomes available in November.

Consumption of edible olive oil during this crop year is estimated at 80,000 tons, the same as last year. Over 9,000 tons of refined olive oil was distributed to canneries during 1954. This was almost double the quantity used for this purpose during the years 1950-53. The increase apparently reflects the greater activity in the fish-canning industry due to the particularly good sardine catch in 1954-55.

Portugal exported 6,822 tons of edible olive oil in 1954 compared with 4,515 tons in 1953, with Angola and Brazil the major destinations. Inedible olive oil exports amounted to 5,371 tons against 3,780 in 1953. The major quantities went to Italy, the United States and Germany.

Prices of edible olive oil for local consumption continue to be fixed by the Ministerial order of October 12, 1951. These prices have remained stable since 1947 and will continue in effect until the new crop becomes available in November. Prices of edible olive oil for export are no longer controlled. Current quotations range from \$35.00 to \$40.00 f.o.b., Lisbon, per case of 50 one-kilogram tins (32 to 36 cents per pound), for oil of 1.5 degrees acidity. Discussions are underway to provide for exports of a certain quantity of oil to Brazil under the trade agreement between Portugal and Brazil. The price is understood to be \$39.00 f.o.b. Lisbon per case of 50 one-kilogram tins (35 cents), for oil of 1.5 degrees acidity.

The only other fats and oils of any significance produced in and exported from Portugal are marine oils. Whale oil production in 1954 in Continental Portugal, the Madeira Islands and the Azores amounted to 3,600 tons and exports were 3,695 tons. Production of codfish liver oil and fish oil (mostly sardine) in 1954 amounted to 3,300 and 1,980 tons, and exports 3,123 and 2,906 tons, respectively.

# MEXICO ANTICIPATES INCREASED PRODUCTION OF FATS AND OILS, LARGE PEANUT SURPLUS

Mexico's total production of fats and oils in 1955 is expected to increase about 11 percent from production in 1954, reports Ana M. Gomez, Assistant Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Mexico City. Total output in 1954, estimated at almost 272,800 short tons oil equivalent, was 14 percent greater than in 1953.

Table 1 - MEXICO: Production of fats and oils,  
1953, 1954 and forecast 1955

(Short tons)

Oil or fat	1953	1954	Forecast 1955
<b>Vegetable oil</b>			
Cottonseed.....	71,870	87,510	108,325
Coconut.....	43,015	48,945	59,525
Palm.....	8,885	10,250	10,250
Sesame.....	43,330	41,965	43,355
Peanut.....	2,205	2,205	1,655
Linseed.....	5,290	5,250	1,720
Castor.....	1,180	1,300	1,300
Rapeseed.....	1,850	1,850	1,850
Total.....	177,625	199,275	227,980
<b>Animal fats</b>			
Lard.....	39,680	47,620	49,600
Tallow.....	22,885	25,890	24,250
Total.....	62,565	73,510	73,850
<b>Total fats and oils.....</b>	<b>240,190</b>	<b>272,785</b>	<b>301,830</b>

American Embassy, Mexico City.

Record production of cottonseed and copra is forecast for 1955. It is too early to forecast sesame and peanut production but, in view of the favorable current prices, it is believed that a larger area will be planted to these crops and, with normal yields, production should increase substantially. The only significant decline expected in production is in flaxseed. The weak export demand and the competition of other crops, principally cotton, resulted in a sharp decrease in area planted in 1954 particularly in the northwest states of Sinaloa and Sonora where production in the past had been intended almost entirely for export.



Table 2 - MEXICO: Production of principal  
oil-bearing materials, 1953, 1954 and forecast 1955

(Short tons)

Oil-bearing material	1953	1954	1955 Forecast
Cottonseed.....	517,200	700,775	811,200
Copra.....	66,265	82,675	99,200
Palm nut kernels.....	14,330	16,535	16,535
Sesame seed.....	96,730	99,200	111,200
Peanuts, unshelled.....	80,050	88,185	93,700
Flaxseed <u>1/</u> .....	34,170	16,535	5,510
Castor beans.....	2,995	3,300	3,300
Rapeseed.....	6,600	6,600	6,600
<u>1/</u> Equivalent in 1,000 bushels: 1953 - 1,220; 1954 - 590; 1955 - 197.			

American Embassy, Mexico City.

The only oilseed to be exported from Mexico in significant quantities during 1955 will be peanuts. The total exportable surplus is estimated at about 46,000 tons unshelled, or approximately 30,800 tons, shelled basis. However, according to trade sources, Mexico currently has only about 10,000 short tons of 1954 crop peanuts, shelled basis, available for export to the United States under the additional import quota of 51,000,000 pounds. 1/ Of this quantity about 4,400 tons are held by processing plants and the remainder by merchants. It will not be possible for Mexico to ship all of the available peanuts before June 30, 1955, because of the limited capacity of processing plants. Mexican exporters are hoping that imports into the United States against the import quota will be extended beyond that date.

Excluding the above quantities, Mexico already has exported about 4,400 tons of shelled peanuts to the United States against the current quota. Also, some 3,300 tons have been sold to the United States for subsequent export.

No exports of flaxseed are anticipated in 1955 because of the low domestic production.

1/ A proclamation issued by the President of the United States on March 9, 1955, permits an additional 51 million pounds of peanuts, averaging more than 40 kernels per ounce, to be imported into the United States or withdrawn from warehouse from that date until June 30, 1955, the end of the current quota year. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, March 21, 1955.)



Imports of fats and oils in 1955 are expected to include approximately 27,000 tons of tallow, 8,800 tons of lard, 1,600 tons of linseed oil and about 1,100 tons of olive oil. The trade reports that permits were granted by the Ministry of Economy in January 1955 for the importation of 11,000 tons of tallow, and additional permits likely will be authorized for importing about 16,500 tons during the second half of 1955. A decline in imports of lard from 11,377 tons in 1954 to about 8,800 tons is expected in 1955 as a result of the policy of Compania Exportadora e Importadora S. A. (CEIMSA), the semi-governmental agency which acts as sole importer of this commodity, to restrict imports. It is reported that imports of about 770 tons of linseed oil will be authorized within the next few weeks in order to relieve the shortage of this oil within the country at the present time and that further imports up to a total of 1,650 tons of linseed oil will be necessary to meet the requirements of the Mexican paint industry during 1955. These imports, as well as those of lard and tallow, probably will originate in the United States. Imports of olive oil will come largely from Spain.

Average wholesale prices of fats and oils showed an upward trend during late 1954 and early 1955. The current price for peanuts exported from Mexico is reported to be 16.0 U.S. cents per pound f.o.b. Veracruz or Tampico for medium sizes (36 to 40 kernels per ounce); 14.5 cents f.o.b. Laredo for small sizes (60 to 70 kernels per ounce); and 14.0 cents f.o.b. Laredo for splits. There is no current export price for flaxseed as no exports were made in 1954 and none are anticipated in 1955.

- - - - -

#### PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO U.S. FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL TRADE

Issued recently and available free upon request from  
the Foreign Agricultural Service, U. S. Department of  
Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

Egg Production in 1954 and Current Chicken Numbers in Specified Countries.  
Foreign Agriculture Circular FPE-8-55.

The Vegetable Oil and Oil-Bearing Materials Situation in the Gold Coast.  
Foreign Agriculture Circular FFO-7-55.

Tobacco Production and Trade of the Dominican Republic. Foreign Agriculture  
Circular FT-13-55.

U. S. Exports of Manufactured Tobacco. Foreign Agriculture Circular FT-14-55.

Tobacco Production and Trade of Puerto Rico. Foreign Agriculture Circular  
FT-15-55.

L A T E   N E W S

Cotton mill consumption in Canada during March 1955 amounted to 36,000 bales (500 pounds gross) continuing the upward trend of recent months, and amounting to 16 percent more than consumption of 31,000 bales in February, and 9 percent more than the 33,000 bales consumed in March 1954. Consumption for the 8-month period August-March 1954-55 amounted to 240,000 bales, or 13 percent more than consumption of 213,000 bales in the corresponding 8-month period of 1953-54.

- - - - -

RECEIVED: 1955

1955

1955

1955

1955

1955

1955





